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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/904,688	07/13/2001	Yoshinobu Takagi	FUJI 18.846	5601
26304	7590	12/15/2004	EXAMINER	
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575 MADISON AVENUE			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			PAPER NUMBER	
			2665	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/904,688

Applicant(s)

TAKAGI ET AL.

Examiner

Duc C Ho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 6-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5,11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Objections

1. Claims 3, 5, and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities: It is requested that "each of priorities" in line 4 is replaced with --- each of priority types ---. The same remark applies to claim 5.

Regarding claim 10, this claim should depend on claim 2 since its preamble disclosing the apparatus of claim 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-2, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiussi et al. (US 5,689,505), hereinafter referred to as Chiussi, in view of Timbs (US5,878,585).

Regarding claim 2, Chiussi discloses buffering of multicast cells in switching networks. The ATM is a packet-oriented transfer mode which uses asynchronous time division multiplexing techniques.

an input port part having a plurality of input ports (the input port unit 110-fig. 1 having six input port cards 0-5, see col. 2, lines 37-61);

an output window part having a plurality of buffers (the output port unit 150-fig. 1 having six output port cards 0-5, wherein each card has an ABM (ATM buffer manager) for controlling output buffers sub 0-31, see col. 2, lines 49-51);

a switch part making connections between the plurality of input ports and the plurality of buffers (a switch fabric 130-fig. 1 for connection between the plurality of input ports and the plurality of buffers);

a selection control circuit (the switch fabric 130-fig. 1 has a switch module ASX as a selection control unit) *controlling the switch port so that data from the plurality of input ports are stored in buffers that have available area among the plurality of buffers* (The ASX module-fig. 3 has the circuit 305 and the backpressure 308 for interconnecting input and output ports, see col. 3, lines 23-42) *in accordance with data storage states of the plurality of buffers* (ATM cells received from the input ports are to be processed through stages, see steps 1401-1411, fig. 14, and to be stored in the egress queue of the output port card (step 1409). The egress queuing of the output

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port card uses mechanisms including the egress pointer memory 1012, egress cell memory 1025 of FIG. 10, egress subport bitmaps, and backpressure bitmap for storing the cells in accordance to the available buffers and to the backpressure status of the egress queue at the output port card, see col. 10-line 49 to col. 14-line 10)

Chiussi, however, does not disclose expressly a time division multiplexing part multiplexing the data read from the plurality of buffers in time division multiplexing for transmission.

Timbs discloses method and apparatus for converting data streams in a cell based communications system.

Referring to the packet processing unit for processing cells for transmission in figure 10. The processor 701 is provisioned to operate on a synchronous span line multiplexing each channel into and outgoing TDM stream with data reading from buffer 703 to fill the register 702, see col. 12, lines 25-34, and col. 11-line 19 to col. 13-line 14.

One skill in the art would recognize the advantage of using a time division multiplexing part as taught by Timbs into the system of Chiussi so that data read from the buffers would be multiplexed in time division multiplexing for transmission.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Chiussi with Timbs.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide multiplexed data for time division multiplexing for transmission.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Timbs with Chiussi to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

Regarding claim 1, the claim has similar limitations as claim 2. Therefore, it is rejected under Chiuissi-Timbs for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 2.

Regarding claim 10, the system of Chiuissi and Timbs is capable of having a 8B/10B code conversion for converting time division multiplexed data into data having an 8B/10B format for transmission.

5. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiuissi, in view of Timbs, and further in view of Roy et al. (US 6,646,983), hereinafter referred to as Roy.

Regarding claim 6, Chiuissi and Timbs disclose all claimed limitations, except the data input to the input port part include an IP packet.

Roy discloses a network switch which supports TDM, ATM, and variable length packet traffic and include automatic fault/congestion correction. Referring to figure 1, where ATM and IP packets transported in an SPE of the port processor 10-fig. 1, see col. 5, lines 18-46.

One skill in the art would recognize the advantage of having IP packet as the data input to the input ports of the system of Chiuissi and Timber in order to accommodate different data types and applications that come from sources such as the Internet

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Chiuissi, Timbs, and Roy.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to accommodate different data types and applications that come from sources such as the Internet.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Roy with Timbs, and Chiussi to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

Regarding claim 7, Chiussi and Timbs disclose all claimed limitations, except the input port part comprises label add parts which add labels to the plurality of input ports.

Roy discloses a network switch, which supports TDM, ATM, and variable length packet traffic and include automatic fault/congestion correction. Referring to figure 2B, the switch element 100 includes a JTAG interface 170 for adding tag to data that processed through the input ports.

One skill in the art would recognize the advantage of having a mechanism for tagging data as they are being processed to the input ports of the system of Chiussi and Timber in order to distinguish the different data types and applications that are transmitted from different sources including the Internet's applications.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Chiussi, Timbs, and Roy.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to distinguish the different data types and applications that are transmitted from different sources including the Internet's applications.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Roy with Timbs, and Chiussi to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Regarding claims 8, and 9, Chiussi and Timbs disclose all claimed limitations, except the output port part comprises a SONET frame assembly parts which assemble

data read from the plurality of buffers into respective SONET frames, which are then supplied to the time division multiplexing part.

Roy discloses a network switch, which supports TDM, ATM, and variable length packet traffic and include automatic fault/congestion correction. Referring to figure 1, the egress side of the SONET interface includes a SONET framer and TOH generator 40-fig. 1 for assembling SONET input into respective output SONET frames for transmission, see col. 5, lines 18-46.

One skill in the art would recognize the advantage of having a SONET framer for assembling SONET input from the ingress into respective output SONET frames at the egress side and supplied to the Time division multiplexing part for transmission.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Chiussi, Timbs, and Roy.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to having a SONET framer for assembling SONET input from the ingress into respective output SONET frames at the egress side, and supplying to the TDM multiplexing for transmission.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Roy with Timbs, and Chiussi to obtain the invention as specified in claims 8-9.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3, and 5 are objected to as being independent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and if rewritten to overcome the objection set forth above.

7. Claims 4, 11, and 12 are objected to as being independent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shin et al. (US 6,388,993); Soumiya et al. (US 5,936,958); Okuda et al. (US 5,892,762); Wicki et al. (US 5,838,684) are cited to show data transmission method and transmission apparatus using the same, which is considered pertinent to the claimed invention.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (571) 272-3155.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner



Duc Ho

12-10-04